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10 January 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

10 January 1961

DAILY BRIEF

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[REDACTED]

Communist China: Food shortages on the Chinese mainland have become so severe that popular discontent is now taking the form of open antiregime activities in some localities. In late November and early December anti-Communist slogans were written on public buildings in both Dairen and Hainan Island. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] food riots took place in Harbin in mid-December, with 70 persons arrested and summarily shot. [REDACTED]

*Communist China - Burma: Following successful settlement of the Sino-Burmese boundary question, Communist China is embarking on a major effort to expand its economic and political ties with Burma. As a result of Chou En-lai's trip to Rangoon, where the instruments of ratification of the border treaty were exchanged, Peiping has agreed to extend large-scale economic aid to Burma. A joint communiqué issued on 9 January announced an economic and technical cooperation agreement under which the Chinese will provide an interest-free credit of about \$85,000,000--the largest amount ever granted by Peiping to a non-bloc

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country. The Chinese will undertake the construction of unspecified industrial projects in Burma. The new aid pact, as well as a trade agreement signed in October 1960, will provide the basis for a much greater volume of Sino-Burmese trade--a goal the Chinese have been seeking for some time.

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Food Shortage Stirring Up Discontent in Communist China

[Discontent strong enough to take the form of antiregime manifestations is reported in Communist China. The principal cause is the effect of protracted food shortages--now going into their third year. "Bad" living conditions and growing discontent were reported in late November on Hainan Island. Anti-Communist slogans were painted on the walls of official buildings in Paso, one of the island's port cities,]

[stevedores there could no longer carry heavy loads because of undernourishment.]

[A similar report has been received from Dairen, where signs believed to have read "More Food" and "Down with Communism" were being erased from public buildings in mid-December.]

[food riots occurred last month in Harbin and that 70 persons were arrested and summarily executed. There is considerable dissatisfaction among civilians in Dairen over the army's favored treatment.]

[While the regime's controls appear more than adequate to cope with the present scale of popular dissatisfaction, the near-famine conditions may have resulted in organizational changes in at least one and perhaps two provinces. According to the Peiping press, the north coastal province of Shantung was the hardest hit in last summer's drought. People's Daily announced on 8 December that four neighboring provinces were organizing a major relief campaign to assist the people of Shantung. Two weeks earlier the local press noted the ouster of the Shantung first party secretary, Shu Tung. His replacement declared that "all cadres should overcome the high and mighty bureaucratism and habit of excusing themselves by pleading special circumstances." The American Consulate General in Hong Kong reports that there is also some evidence of a shake-up in the Kwangtung party provincial committee. The number of refugees fleeing Kwangtung into Hong Kong because of the food shortage is increasing despite stringent border controls.]

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